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Bisphenol A in Food Cans: An Update

The can manufacturing industry and suppliers have followed closely the current research on can coatings and have conducted our own research as it relates to potential exposure to bisphenol A from can coatings. We would like to present new research findings that will amend several conclusions drawn by Nagel et al. (*1*) in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

The paper states that the active level of bisphenol A in rodents was measured at 2 and 20 micrograms per kilogram body weight per day (µg/kg/day) and is "near or within the reported ranges of human exposure." This conclusion appears to be based on human exposure data derived from a paper by Brotons et al. (*2*) in *Environmental Health Perspectives* in 1995. New, updated data based on much more definitive analytical methodology supersedes this finding.

In late 1996, our industry's Epoxy Can Coating Work Group of the Interindustry Group on Bisphenol A and Alkylphenols completed a second study on potential human exposure to bisphenol A from epoxy lacquer-coated food cans. The first study from this work group (*3*), completed in 1995, was referenced by Nagel et al. (*1*). The second study was undertaken using the improved analytical methodology that minimizes the interferences which were observed in the first study and likely occurred in the study of Brotons et al. (*2*).

The findings of the 1996 report, "Potential Exposure to Bisphenol A from Epoxy Can Coatings" (*4*), provide new improved exposure data. This 1996 study with more accurate data was not referenced by Nagel et al. (*1*). These new data, which have now been provided to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National

Corrections and Clarifications

In the article by Munger et al. (Intrauterine Growth Retardation in Iowa Communities with Herbicide-contaminated Drinking Water Supplies) published in EHP in Volume 105, Number 3, 1997, Table 1 was incorrect. For all variables, both mean and median should be given in micrograms per liter. The corrected table is shown below.

Table 1. Contaminants of drinking water supplied in towns in the southern tier of Iowa counties with a population of 2,500 or fewer by source of water supply, 1984–1990

Variable	RRWA (n=13)	All water supplies in Rathbun counties excluding RRWA (n = 38)	Surface water supplies other than Rathbun (n = 21)	Groundwater from alluvial and glacial drift (n = 75)	Groundwater from bedrock aquifers (n = 42)
Alachlor (Lasso)					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	<0.01 (0.1)	0.0 (0)	0.00 (0.00)	<0.1 (0.2)	0.0 (0)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	7.7	0	0	4.0	0
Atrazine					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	2.2 (0.4)	0.7 (1.2)	0.8 (1.1)	<0.1 (0.1)	<0.1 (<0.1)
Median (µg/l)	2.1	0	0.44	0	0
Positive detection (%)	100.0	42.1	76.2	5.3	4.7
Cyanazine (Bladex)					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	1.4 (0.5)	0.3 (0.5)	0.7 (0.9)	0.0 (0)	0.00 (0.00)
Median (µg/l)	1.4	0	0.3	0	0
Positive detection (%)	100.0	26.3	57.1	0	0
Metolachlor (Dual)					
Mean (µg/l)) (SD)	0.2 (0.3)	0.2 (0.4)	0.1 (0.2)	<0.1 (<0.1)	0.0(0)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	38.5	26.3	21	1.3	0
2,4-D					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	<0.1 (<0.1)	<0.1 (<0.1)	<0.1 (<0.1)	<0.1 (<0.1)	0.00 (0.00)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	7.7	5.3	4.8	2.7	0
Chloroform					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	53.2 (9.3)	57.8 (94.9)	110.2 (81.8)	7.92 (20.9)	1.10 (6.0)
Median (µg/l)	55.0	1.0	89	2.0	0
Positive detection (%)	100.0	52.6	95.2	70.7	16.7
Bromodichloromethane					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	10.0 (3.7)	9.6 (13.8)	18.00 (10.3)	5.19 (17.3)	0.45 (1.9)
Median (µg/l)	9.0	1	18	1.0	0
Positive detection (%)	100.0	52.6	90.5	61.3	14.3
Dibromochloromethane					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	0.6 (0.5)	1.32 (1.7)	1.67 (1.2)	3.79 (12.4)	0.60 (1.3)
Median (µg/l)	1.0	0	2	1.0	0
Positive detection (%)	61.5	47.4	81.0	52.0	26.2
Bromoform					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	0.00 (0.00)	0.9 (2.1)	0.05 (0.2)	1.1 (2.9)	1.6 (5.0)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	0	25.0	4.8	28.0	26.2
p,m-Xylene					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	<0.1 (<0.1)	0.2 (0.7)	0.4 (1.1)	0.0 (0)	0.62 (2.90)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	7.7	10.5	14.3	0	9.5
o-Xylene					
Mean (µg/l) (SD)	0	0.05 (0.2)	0.10 (0.3)	0.0 (0)	0.14 (0.8)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	0	5.3	9.5	0	4.8
Tetrachloroethane					
Mean (µg/l)) (SD)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)	0.0 (0)
Median (µg/l)	0	0	0	0	0
Positive detection (%)	0	0	0	0	0

Abbreviations: RRWA, Rathbun Rural Water Association; *n*, number of communities; SD, standard deviation; 2,4-D, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid.
Communities grouped by source of drinking water supply.